Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 1:30:49 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Re: Public Records Request — Wilmington Police Department Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone) Program
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 1:30:34 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Mark Williams
To: [redacted]
CC: Meredith Everhart
Attachments: image001.jpg, image002.jpg

Ms. Spicer-Sidbury,

I'm following up on my public-records request of July 3, 2026, concerning the Wilmington Police Department's unmanned aircraft system (UAS / drone) program, submitted on behalf of DeFlockILM under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1 et seq. More than five weeks have now passed without an acknowledgment, a production, or an estimated timeframe. Most agencies have responded in less than 20 days.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6(a) requires public records to be furnished "as promptly as possible," and I'd be glad to make this easier: the request seeks the program's foundational records — policies and SOPs, the drone inventory, funding and procurement (including the referenced state grant), the retention schedule, any "Drone as First Responder" plans, FAA authorizations, data-sharing agreements, and oversight/audit records — and, as written, any item for which no responsive record exists is fully satisfied by a brief written statement to that effect. I'm also glad to take production on a rolling basis and to confer to clarify or reasonably narrow any item.

Accordingly, I ask that by **Friday, August 14, 2026** the City provide one of the following: (a) the responsive records; (b) per-item written statements where no records exist; or (c) a firm completion date. I've copied the City Attorney so the request is properly routed, and I remain glad to speak by phone if that's quicker.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Respectfully,
Mark Spencer Williams

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RICE LAW, PLLC
RiceFamilyLaw.com

Mark Spencer Williams
Attorney

910.762.3854 Office
910.304.5360 Direct
910.251.6346 Office Fax
910.317.8930 Direct Fax

mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com

105 N 6th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401

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From: Mark Williams <mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>
Date: Friday, July 3, 2026 at 6:29 AM

To: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Subject: Public Records Request — Wilmington Police Department Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone) Program

This letter is a request under the North Carolina Public Records Law, **N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1** et seq., for records in the possession, custody, or control of the City of Wilmington and the Wilmington Police Department (the "Department") concerning the Department's unmanned aircraft system (UAS or "drone") program. This request is submitted on behalf of DeFlockILM, a citizen group documenting surveillance technology in New Hanover County.

Specifically, I request copies of the following records for the period **January 1, 2021 to the present**, unless otherwise noted:

1. All current and prior policies, standard operating procedures, directives, general orders, or training manuals governing the Department's use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS or "drones"), including any provisions addressing authorized uses, deployment, privacy, and data handling.
2. A current inventory of all UAS and related equipment owned, leased, or operated by the Department, including make, model, quantity, serial or asset identifiers, and dates of acquisition.
3. All records reflecting the funding and procurement of the UAS program, including purchase orders, contracts, invoices, and grant applications and awards, including any documentation of the "state support and funding" referenced in the Department's public announcements.
4. All policies, schedules, and records governing the retention, storage, and deletion of imagery, video, telemetry, or other data captured by UAS, including the identity of any vendor or cloud platform used to store such data.
5. Deployment or flight records for UAS from January 1, 2024 to the present, including, to the extent maintained, the date, time, general location or area, purpose or call type, and operator for each flight or deployment.
6. All records concerning any current or proposed "Drone as First Responder" (DFR) program, including planning documents, proposals, presentations, memoranda, vendor communications, and any agreements or memoranda of understanding.
7. All agreements or records governing the sharing of UAS-captured data with any other agency (local, state, federal, or private), and any integration of UAS data with the STING Center, the Fusus or Axon platforms, evidence.com, or any real-time crime center.
8. All records establishing oversight of the UAS program, including audit procedures, audit results or reports, access-control policies, and records identifying who may access UAS data and for what purposes.
9. All Federal Aviation Administration authorizations relevant to the program, including any Certificate of Authorization (COA), Part 107 waivers, and Remote ID compliance records; and all UAS operator training materials and curricula.
10. Any privacy impact assessment, legal review, community-engagement materials, or public notices concerning the UAS program.

Form and fees. Please provide responsive records in electronic form (searchable PDF or native format where available), consistent with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6.2. If you anticipate that any fee for special or extensive information-technology services will exceed $50.00, please contact me for authorization before incurring the cost.

Exemptions. If you contend that any responsive record, or portion of a record, is exempt from disclosure, please produce all reasonably segregable non-exempt portions and identify the specific statutory basis for each withholding or redaction, so that any claim of exemption can be evaluated.

Timing. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6 requires that public records be made available for inspection and copying "as promptly as possible." I would appreciate your acknowledgment of this request and an estimated timeframe for production. I am glad to confer to clarify or reasonably narrow any item, and I can be reached at the contact information above.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

~Mark

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RICE LAW, PLLC
RiceFamilyLaw.com

Mark Spencer Williams
Attorney

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